



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2020

New micro-exhibit at the Museum of Vancouver celebrates emerging and mid-career Indigenous artists in BC & Yukon

c'əc'əwítəl' | helping each other | ch'áwatway provides an opportunity for the 2019 YVR Art Foundation scholarship recipients to publicly exhibit their final artworks

VANCOUVER, BC – On September 16, 2020 a new micro-exhibition featuring 10 emerging and mid-career Indigenous artists opens in the MOV studio at the **Museum of Vancouver**. The micro-exhibit, **c'əc'əwítəl' | helping each other | ch'áwatway**, provides an opportunity for the 2019 **YVR Art Foundation** (YVRAF) scholarship recipients to exhibit their artworks. Each year, since 2005, recipients have exhibited their artworks at a celebratory event held at the Vancouver International Airport. This year's event was cancelled due to COVID-19.

"The YVR Art Foundation is thrilled to be collaborating with the Museum of Vancouver on this opportunity to showcase the exceptional artwork created by our 10 scholarship recipients from 2019. The YVR Art Foundation is dedicated to supporting BC and Yukon Indigenous artists through providing awards and exhibition opportunities. This project, along with the MOV's commitment to Indigenous community engagement, aligns directly with our mission." Susan Jackson, Executive Director.

The micro-exhibition, which will be on display until December 9th 2020, explores themes of resilience, memory and identity, through reconnection with ancestral knowledge and lands. The title, written in both *hən'qəmin'əm'* and *Skwxwú7mesh snichim*, shows our respect for the teachings of our host communities – the **Musqueam, Squamish** and **Tsleil-Waututh** Nations while acknowledging that this exhibition is taking place within their shared traditional territories. The title also recognizes the importance of mentorship and the value of sharing gained knowledge and skills with others in the community. Each of the featured artists has created an artwork that showcases the beauty and power of their respective teachings and spiritual gifts, some by illustrating elements of oral tradition, others by (re)creating objects of ceremony and prestige.

"As a museum focused on reconciliation and redress, we are always looking for ways to support the work of emerging and established Indigenous artists. COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, but we feel lucky that we have been able to re-open MOV to the public, and that this in turn, allows us to provide a venue to celebrate the important works created by the 2019 YVRAF scholarship recipients. I truly believe that all the featured artworks will provide inspiration for a new generation of artists and cultural practitioners, and that each of these artists will one day become mentors in turn." Sharon Fortney, MOV Curator of Indigenous Collections and Engagement

c'əc'əwítəl' | helping each other | ch'áwatway features the work of the 2019 YVR Art Foundation scholarship recipients including: Stephanie Anderson, Morgan Asoyuf, Marlo Wylie Brillon, Ddhälh

Kit Nelnah / Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé, Reuben Mack, Atheana Picha, Kelly Robinson, Skilaaw / Captain Stewart-Burton, Joshua Watts, and Nathan Wilson. The YVRAF's scholarship program awards \$5,000 annually to BC and Yukon Indigenous emerging and mid-career visual artists to pursue their art practice through mentorships, education, or community focused art projects.

Visitors to MOV will be required to pre-reserve tickets online to adhere to new health and safety protocols that help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Masks are recommended during the visit and directional signage as well as sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the galleries.

About Museum of Vancouver

The Museum of Vancouver connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum, an enthusiastic civic advocate, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city.

About YVR Art Foundation

YVR Art Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that supports the development and advancement of BC and Yukon Indigenous art and artists by providing scholarships, grants, awards and exhibition opportunities. For more information about the YVR Art Foundation visit www.yvraf.com.

Institutional Partners: City of Vancouver, BC Arts Council, and the Province of British Columbia

Partners in Reconciliation: Vancity, City of Vancouver Cultural Services,

Listing Information

c'əcəwitəl' | *helping each other* | ch'áwatway

Public Opening Date: September 17, 2020

Location: Museum of Vancouver: 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC

Website: museumofvancouver.ca/helping-each-other

-30-

For further information, interviews, or media inquiries please contact Lorenzo Schober at lschober@museumofvancouver.ca or 604-730-5309.